

Governor Haley Barbour

Now in his sixth year as Governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour has put his state on a new path in many of the major issues of the day – job creation, education, health care, energy, safer communities, and stronger families. And, now, his state, like the others and the country itself, is dealing with revenue consequences of the international economic downturn.

As Governor Barbour likes to say, governors must exert executive leadership and deal effectively with real issues that affect people close to home. In short, governors have to “do” things.

In Mississippi that “doing” has been marked by:

- The most comprehensive tort reform in the nation, restoring balance for plaintiffs and defendants in the state’s civil justice system;
- Balanced budgets without any tax increases;
- A 27.8% increase in per capita personal income;
- Prudent management of the state health care program; and,
- New attention on Mississippi as an energy producing state that can help meet America’s energy needs in the future.

Governor Barbour won his first term in the largest voter turnout in Mississippi gubernatorial history, and his second with 58.2 percent of the vote.

After Hurricane Katrina – the worst natural disaster in American history – struck Mississippi in 2005, Governor Barbour and First Lady Marsha Barbour, his wife of 37 years, took the lead in helping South Mississippi recover.

For his leadership after Katrina, Governor Barbour was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Freedom Award from the good folks here at the American Legislative Exchange Council.

He was also named Governor of the Year for 2006 by Washington, D.C.-based Governing magazine; awarded the Gulf Guardian Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his work to rebuild and protect sensitive Coast ecosystems; and received the 2008 Adam

Smith Medal from BIPAC for his pursuit of the principles of free enterprise as Mississippi's 63rd Governor.

He is a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi.